

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: T.J. Bucholz

(517) 241-4395

Two Michigan Teachers Receive \$25,000 Milken National Educator Award

Two Detroit-area teachers recently received news of \$25,000 cash awards – no strings attached – during visits from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Watkins and members of the State Board of Education as part of the Milken Family Foundation's National Educator Awards Program.

This year's recipients of the Milken National Educator Award include:

- Stacie Smith - teacher, William Davison Elementary, Detroit Public Schools
- Jennifer Murphy - teacher, Sayre Elementary, South Lyon Community Schools

"Teachers like our Milken winners make a significant difference in the lives and futures of our children," Watkins said. "This marks our 13th year of recognizing excellence in education with the Milken Family Foundation, and we are pleased to acknowledge the vision and dedication these educators bring to their profession."

The program was created by the California-based Milken Family Foundation to provide public and financial recognition to teachers, principals, and other education professionals who advance the notion of educational excellence. The program is conducted in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Education.

"Outstanding educators are the essential ingredient in student achievement, encouraging children to perform to their fullest abilities and to develop a love of learning," said Lowell Milken, Foundation co-founder who attended both events in southeast Michigan. "Each and every day, these educators provide students with the confidence and tools to succeed."

The criteria for the selection of outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and other education professionals as Milken Educators include:

- Exceptional educational talent as evidenced by outstanding practices in the classroom, school, and profession
- Outstanding accomplishment and strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership
- Engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues, and the community

In addition to the financial award, the recipients of the Milken Educator Award will also be presented with an opportunity to participate in an ongoing network of nearly 2,000 of the nation's most outstanding educators. This network will provide all of them with a variety of professional resources to help them cultivate and expand innovative programs in their classrooms, schools, and districts. They also will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Los Angeles in June 2003 for the annual Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference.

Michigan has participated in the Milken National Educator Award Program since 1990.

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